

Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) Membership Balance Plan

Please read the Federal Advisory Committee Membership Balance Plan Guidance prior to completing this form

(1) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE NAME <i>State the legal name of the FAC</i>
Disability Advisory Committee (DAC or Committee)
(2) AUTHORITY <i>Identify the authority for establishing the FAC</i>
The Committee was established at the direction of the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2
(3) MISSION/FUNCTION <i>Describe the mission/function of the FAC</i>
<p>The mission of the DAC is to make recommendations to the Commission regarding issues affecting people with disabilities within the jurisdiction of the Commission and to suggest ways to facilitate the participation of people with disabilities in proceedings before the Commission. Issues or questions to be considered by the DAC may include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) (Section 225 of the Communications Act); • Closed Captioning (Sections 303(u), (z), and 713 of the Communications Act); • Video Description (Sections 303(u), (z), and 713 of the Communications Act); • Access to Televised Emergency Information (Sections 303(u), (z), and 713 of the Communications Act); • Accessible User Interfaces on Video Programming Apparatus/Access to Program Guides and Menus Provided by Navigation Devices (Sections 303(aa) and (bb) of the Communications Act); • Communications Access: • Telecommunications Services and Equipment (Section 255 of the Communications Act); • Advanced Communications Services and Equipment (Sections 716 and 718 of the Communications Act); • The Impact of IP and Other Network Transitions on People with Disabilities. • Hearing Aid Compatibility (Section 710 of the Communications Act); • Access to Telephone Emergency Services (9-1-1) (Section 106 of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act); • National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (Section 719 of the Communications Act);
(4) POINTS OF VIEW <i>Based on understanding the purpose of the FAC,</i> <i>(a) describe the process that will be used to ensure the committee is balanced, and identify the categories (e.g. individual expertise or represented interests) from which candidates will be considered;</i> <i>(b) consider identifying an anticipated relative distribution of candidates across the categories; and</i> <i>(c) explain how a determination was made to appoint any individuals as Special Government Employees or Representative members</i>

Members will represent a wide variety of entities with interests in disability access, including TRS, closed captioning, video description, access to emergency information, accessible user interfaces on video programming apparatus, access to program guides and menus provided by navigation devices, communications access, hearing aid compatibility, access to emergency services, the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program, and IP and other network transitions as they impact individuals with disabilities. Members will include representatives of organizations and entities representing people with disabilities, as well as representatives of state or local governments and industry, and, if serving as Special Government Employees, individuals with significant expertise in the issues to be addressed by the DAC. Together, these members will be selected to represent a balance of viewpoints that are necessary to address effectively the issues to be considered by the DAC.

(5) OTHER BALANCE FACTORS

List any other factors your agency identifies as important in achieving a balanced FAC

The Commission is particularly interested in receiving nominations and expressions of interest from individuals and organizations in the following categories:

- Organizations and other entities representing people with disabilities, including people who are blind and visually impaired, people who are deaf or hard of hearing, people with intellectual disabilities, people with multiple disabilities, including those who are deaf-blind, and people with speech disabilities;
- Federal government agencies;
- Communications service providers and organizations representing communications service providers, including TRS providers, equipment manufacturers, wireline and wireless communications service providers, broadcast television licensees, cable television operators and other multichannel video programming distributors, satellite communications service providers, voice over Internet protocol and other IP-enabled service providers, and Internet service providers.
- State and local government agencies; and
- Qualified representatives of other stakeholders and interested parties with relevant experience.

(6) CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Summarize the process intended to be used to identify candidates for the FAC, key resources expected to be tapped to identify candidates and the key persons (by position, not name) who will evaluate FAC balance. The summary should:

- (a) describe the process*
- (b) identify the agency key staff involved (by position, not name)*
- (c) briefly describe how FAC vacancies, if any, will be handled by the agency; and*
- (d) state the membership term limit of FAC members, if applicable*

The Commission will solicit nominations and expressions of interest in membership through outreach to members of the first term of the DAC, organizations and entities with interests in the matters to be considered by the DAC and through Public Notice(s). After the reauthorization of the DAC and initiation of its second term, vacancies will be filled through a similar outreach process by individuals and organizations similar to those who are leaving the Committee in order to retain proper balance among Committee members. As Committee members serving in their individual capacity may not be registered federal lobbyists, such nominees who are registered federal lobbyists will not be considered; however, the ban does not apply if these nominees are specifically appointed to represent the interests of a nongovernmental entity, a recognizable group of persons or nongovernmental entities, or state or local governments. No specific nomination form is required; however, each nomination must include the following information:

- Name, title, and organization of the nominee and a description of the organization, sector or other interest the nominee will represent;
- Nominee's mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number;
- A statement summarizing the nominee's qualifications and reasons why the nominee should be appointed to the DAC. To the extent the nominee will represent a specific organization, the statement should also include a description of the organization as well as the benefit of having the organization represented on the Committee; and
- A statement confirming that the nominee, if seeking appointment for the individual's expertise and not as a representative of an organization or entity, is not a registered federal lobbyist.

Members will be appointed for a term not to exceed the expiration date of the Committee's reauthorized charter. Nominations and expressions of interest will be reviewed by the Committee's Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and appropriate Commission staff, who will make recommendations for membership to the FCC Chairman.

(7) SUBCOMMITTEE BALANCE

Subcommittees subject to FACA should either state that the process for determining FAC member balance on subcommittees is the same as the process for the parent FAC, or describe how it is different*

**This is relevant to those agencies that require their subcommittees to follow all FACA requirements.*

When the need arises to form subcommittees of the DAC, members will be asked to serve as appropriate. The DFO, in consultation with the FCC Chairman, will monitor membership balance in the formation of subcommittees to ensure that the balance mirrors that of the Committee itself.

(8) OTHER

Provide any additional information that supports the balance of the FAC

None

(9) DATE PREPARED/UPDATED

Insert the actual date the Membership Balance Plan was initially prepared, along with the date(s) the Plan is updated

The Membership Balance Plan was initially prepared on October 17, 2014. It was updated to this current version on August 9, 2016.